

last time's term, those who are former Vice Presidents and their extended relatives, that this is no time to cast dirt on President Obama, who has done an excellent job.

Americans come together when there is difficulty and tragedy. I am very disappointed in The Wall Street Journal article that wants to cast blame when people are dying in Iraq. Let's stand up and be united.

Just a few days ago, I came back from Nigeria, where the horrific Boko Haram is killing people and kidnapping girls. I ask my colleagues to please stand with us to not let the kidnapping of the Nigerian girls be a side story, Mr. Speaker.

As I close, I intend to introduce human trafficking legislation as a senior member of Homeland Security to address the question of the human trafficking of these girls, and girls and women of color, the highest population of those who are trafficked. We can do things together in America, and I ask us to stand together.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Mr. Rajan Zed, Universal Society of Hinduism, Reno, Nevada, offered the following prayer:

We meditate on the transcendental glory of the deity supreme, who is inside the heart of the Earth, inside the life of the sky, and inside the soul of the heaven. May He stimulate and illuminate our minds.

Lead us from the unreal to the real; from darkness to light; from death to immortality.

Fulfill all your duties; action is better than inaction. Selfish action imprisons the world. Act selflessly, without any thought of personal profit. Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to selfless work, one attains the supreme goal of life.

May we become united with the all-powerful and all-knowing Lord, who dwells in the hearts of all, is the supreme goal of life and infinite peace and love. Lord, be kind to us with Your invisible form, lead us to eternal joy, fill our hearts with unending peace, and free us from all bondage. Abandon us not.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDWARDS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3230) "An Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes," agrees to a conference requested by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. RUBIO, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1237. An act to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING MR. RAJAN ZED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome Mr. Rajan Zed to offer the opening prayer before the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of the State of Nevada, he attended San Jose State University in San Jose, California, my alma mater.

As president of the Universal Society of Hinduism and a senior fellow/religious adviser to the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy, he has advocated for religious freedom and tolerance throughout the world.

His contributions to the religious community worldwide led him to be invited by the president of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, for a meeting to promote interfaith dialogue. He is particularly known for his work within the Roma community, acting as a voice for the human rights of the 15 million Roma in Europe.

That this body supports diversity of spirituality and cultures is a testament to our great institution.

For his continued spiritual leadership and for traveling from afar, I would like to thank Mr. Zed for leading us in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING CAROL DIXON

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Committee on Ethics and along with my colleague, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, the ranking member, and other members of the committee, past and present, we rise today to honor the life and work of Carol Dixon.

Every so often, through hard work, immense talent, and a zealous dedication to the mission of this body, a staffer becomes an institution of the House. Carol Dixon had achieved that status.

Known to many simply as the Ethics Lady, Carol's intelligence, candor, and infectious laugh made the House a better, more honorable place. As director of our Advice and Education section, Carol's command of the ethics rules was unmatched, as evidenced by the large number of Members and employees from both sides of the aisle who continually sought out Carol to specifically ask for her guidance.

Her sudden passing this weekend is a tremendous loss for both the Ethics Committee and the House.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING CAROL DIXON

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to honor the life of Carol Dixon.

Carol's public service was not just to the Ethics Committee, but to the entire House. Carol provided wise counsel to hundreds of Members and to thousands of staff. This House will miss Carol's sage advice and her deep institutional knowledge. The members and staff of the Ethics Committee will also miss our good friend.

While Carol loved her job and her co-workers in the House, most of all, Carol loved her family. We know this because she spoke of them warmly and often. Carol's mother and father and family members are here with us today. On behalf of all of the members and staff of the Ethics Committee, thank you so much for sharing Carol with us.